

## MINUTES of the GREB WorkGroup

January 17, 2017

The GREB WorkGroup met on Wednesday, January 17, 2017, at 1:40 p.m. in the Norwood Room, Parish Hall of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Richmond Virginia.

Present: Co-Chair John Hager, Clara Belle Wheeler, Larry Haake, Robin Lind, William Bell, Bill Thomas, and Al Ablowich. Members of the public attending included Directors of Elections Bill Jenkins of Sussex, Cameron Sasnett of Fairfax and David Bjerke of Falls Church City, and Olga Hernandez of the League of Women Voters.

Mr. Hager called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm. Discussion ensued on the draft minutes of the December 12 meeting and on a motion by Mr. Bell, seconded by Dr. Wheeler, the minutes of the December 12, 2016 meeting were unanimously adopted as amended.

Discussion ensued on the proposal for VRAV & VEBA to form a user group with ELECT to identify and resolve IT issues. Mr. Bell suggested the group be heavily weighted towards GRs since EBs are unable to access VERIS.

Mr. Howard reported he had spoken to Matt Davis at ELECT who was amendable to a workgroup but not yet ready; he added that VRAV has already assembled a Tech Committee to standby and offer assistance. Several EBs were proposed as possible nominees.

"Our job is to put the proposal to them, not wait until they're ready," said Mr. Hager. "It needs to be done yesterday."

Dr. Wheeler commented on SJ 274, introduced by Sen. Mark Obenshain, which would direct a JLARC study of the Department of Elections, and HJ 703 introduced by Del. Mark Sickles, which would create a joint committee of the P&Es to study Special Elections. Discussion ensued on the possibility of rolling together the two resolutions and creating an independent group to study the whole IT issue. "The bad guy in the closet is VITA," said Mr. Haake. "We focus on ELECT but need to focus on VITA."

On a motion by Dr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Howard, the GREB WorkGroup voted unanimously to "Create a user committee with members from VRAV, VEBA and ELECT to identify and recommend solutions for specific critical IT issues and report back to the GREB WorkGroup by May 1, 1017". Passed unanimously.

The immediate past presidents of VRAV and VEBA reported on actionable data on VERIS problems. Both Mr. Bell and Mr. Howard reported difficulty in determining what the available

data indicated. Previously available pdfs of the data entry system are no longer provided, according to Ms. Gunter.

A brief report was given on HB 1730, a bill introduced by Del. Margaret Ransone, to require ELECT to adopt the recommendation of the GREB WorkGroup to require nominees to Electoral Boards to read and acknowledge the statement of Duties and Responsibilities of EB service.

Discussion ensued on funding for ELECT and replacement of HAVA funds which may require further reduction of reimbursement funds to localities.

Discussion ensued on the proposed amendments to the Draft Report of the GREB WorkGroup for 2016. On a motion by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Bell the report was unanimously accepted as amended and the Secretary was directed to deliver copies to the Speaker, the Senator Pro-Tem, chairs of the P&E Committees, the Governor and Lt. Governor. Dr. Wheeler agreed to present copies to the members of the SBE.

The Workgroup agreed on February 23 as a tentative next meeting date with Mr. Judd agreeing to find a suitable location to meet.

There being no further business the WorkGroup adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Lind, Temporary Recording Secretary